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Message Text

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20/12
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 AF-10 IO-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 ACDA-19 DPW-01 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 EB-11 COME-00

INT-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCEM-02 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

DRC-01 /192 W
---------- 038067
P R 200956Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0592
INFO USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
DIA WASHDC

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USINFO FOR IOR/M, IPS, IBS, INE

BEIRUT FOR VOA AND RAPA

ROME FOR VOA

E O 11652: N/A
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTHON NOV 20
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1. GAP IN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI POSITIONS OVER TROOP DISENGAGEMENT
REMAINS FOCAL PRESS ITEM. DAVAR BELIEVES ISRAELI
PROPOSAL TO EXCHANGEBANKS WILL ROB ISRAEL OF SOLITARY BARGAIN-
ING CARD TO ENSURE FREE NAVIGATION AT CANAL. HAARETZ REPORTS
CABINET MAJORITY BELIEVES PEACE CONF SHOULD BE POSTPONED
UNTIL AFTER DEC 31 ELECTIONS. AL HAMISHMAR EDITORIAL
REMARKS CAIRO WOULD BE WRONG TO BELIEVE THAT PEACE CONF
MEANS "CONFOERENCE FOR WITHDRAWAL." DAVAR NOTES INCREASED
ALERT ALONG SOUTHERN FRONT FOLLOWING RENEWED EGYPTIAN THREATS
TO RESUME FIRE. AL HAMISMHAMR REPORTS EX-MAYOR OF NABLUS
DEPARTED FOR BEIRUT (NOV 18) TO TALK TO TERRORIST LEADERS
TO PREPARE PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE FOR PEACE CONF. DAVAR
URGES ISRAEL TO DEFICT ITS POLICY
FOR PEACE SETTLEMENT BEFORE IT EMBARKS ON CAMPAIGN TO WIN US
PUBLIC SUPPORT. HAARETZ SAYS WAY IN WHICH WEST
SEEKS SOLUTION TO OIL SHORTAGE WILL DETERMINE WHETHER TERM
"WEST" STILL HAS SUBSTANCE. COMMENTATORS RENEW WARNINGS
TO RESPONSIBLE LEADERS TO AVOID PUBLIC ACIMONY OVER PRE-
WAR AND WAR-TIME JUDGMENTS AND DECISION.

2. TROOP DISENGAGEMMENT: (A) HAARETZ (IND)
WRITES: " THE GOI WILL DISCUSS (NOV 20) THE QUESTION OF
TROOP DISENGAGEMENT AND BUFFER ZONES BETWEEN ISRAELI AND
EGYPT FORCES AT THE SUEZ CANAL... EGYPT'S PROPOSAL THAT
ISRAEL WITHDRAW FROM BOTH BANKS OF THE CANAL... IS VIEWED
BY THE MAJORITY OF THE CABINET.. AS AN EGYPTIAN ATTEMPT TO
ATTAIN ACHIEVEMENTS... EVEN BEFORE THE PEACE CONF.
THE GOI HAS BEEN INFORMED OF US SUPPORT FOR THE EGYPT
PROPOSAL.. ANOTHER YET UNDEBATED (ISRAELI) PROPOSAL CALLS FOR
ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WEST BANK IN RETURN FOR THE
WITHDRAWAL OF THE THIRD ARMY.. THE SECOND ARMY TO
REMAIN ON THE EAST BANK...THE GOI WILL ALSO DISCUSS TODAY
THE DATE FOR THE PEACE CONF.. EGYPT'S REJECTION OF
THE PROPOSAL TO POSTPONE THE PEACE CONF UNTIL AFTER
ELECTIONS... WILL NOT CHANGE GOI'S OPINION.. THAT IT
SHOULD BE HELD AFTER DEC 31".
(B) DAVAR REPORTS: "EBAN MIGHT
REQUEST CLARIFICATIONS (FROM KISSINGER) RE THE
US PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE GUARANTEES IF ISRAEL WITHDRAWS
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF PEACE SETTLEMENT....OFFICIALS CLOSE TO
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KISSINGER SAY THAT THE US IS INTERESTED IN EXPEDITING THE PEACE
TALKS... BELIEVING THAT THIS WILL PREVENT ANOTHER CONFRONTATION..
AND MIGHT (HELP) REMOVE THE OIL EMBARGO. ISRAEL APPARENTLY
PREFERS SLOWER PROCEDURES THAT WOULD STRENGTHEN THE BASIS FOR
PEACE AND WOULD TEST THE EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS."
(C) AL HAMISMHAR EDITORIALIZES: "EGYPT WOTULD BE
WRONG TO BELIEVE THAT A PEACE CONF ONLY MEANS A 'CONFERENCE
FOR WITHDRAWAL.' ISRAEL WILL CERTAINLY BRING ITS PROPOSAL FOR

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WITHDRAWAL TO SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BORDERS, BUT THE DEBATE
OVER THIS GENERAL FORMULA WILL NOT BE EASY. ISRAEL WILL
WANT PEACE IN EXCHANGE FOR WITHDRAWAL... THE SUBSTANCE OF
PEACE WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE DEBATE... BECAUSE THERE IS NEED
TO TAKE A LONG BREATH... THE SUBJECT OF TROOP DISENGAGEMENT IS
THEREFORE VITAL TO PREVENT INCIDENTS BETWEEN THE PARTIES..."
(D) MAARIV (IND) COMMENTS: "EGYPT NEEDS TO
STABILIZE A NEW CEASEFIRE LINE MORE THAN ISRAEL DOES... THE
GLI'S DILEMMA IS... WHETHER TO CONTINUE TO MAKE GESTURES IN
ORDER TO CREATE A MORE COMFORTABLE ATMOSPHERE... OR TO KEEP
THE BARGAINING CARDS AND STAND FIRM ON ITS DEMAND FOR LINES THAT
WOULD NOT INDUCE THE OTHER SIDE TO EMBARK ON ANOTHER
ADVENTURE... EVENTUALLY ZHIS ISSUE WILL BE SETTLED...HOWEVER
THERE IS A NEED TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS (AND NOT ONE OR TWO
CONVERSZTIONS)... TO OUR REGRET WE ARE NOT BEING PERMITTED
TO CONDUCT BILATERAL, PATIENT AND SECRET TALKS... THE
PRESENCE OF THE UN OFFICER... IS A SYMBOL OF THE SITUATION
WE ARE IN... THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE PROBABLY RIPE.. FOR
A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM MRS MEIR TO SADAT IN WHICH SHE
WILL OUTLINE THE OPPORTUNITY NOW AVAILABLE FOR ISRAEL AND
EGYPT TO TALK DIRECTLY WITHOUT MEDIATION..."

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

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(E) YEDIOT AHARONOT COMMENTS: "PERHAPS THE DELAY
(NOV 19) IN SENDING THE ISRAELI POWS IS A
WARNING TO ISRAEL AT A TIME WHEN DIFFICULTIES ERUPTED OVER THE
PROBLEM OF TROOP DISENGAGEMENT... PERHAPS THE DIFFICULTIES
WHICH EGYPT IS ERECTING ARE CONNECTED WITH THE ROAD WHICH ISRAEL
BUILT ACORSS THE CANAL... HOWEVER, THERE SEEMS TO BE A RIGIDITY
IN THE GENERAL ARAB POSITION IN VIEW OF THE SUCCESS OF THEIR
OIL POLICY... WHAT IS MOST WORRYING FOR ISRAEL IS THE
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INFO COMING OUT OF WASHINGTON RE FULBRIGHT'S
DELAYING TACTICS... THERE CERTAINLY SEEMS TO BE ROOM TO
ASSUME THAT FULBRIGHT AND KISSINGER ARE INTERESTED IN USING
MILITARY AID AS A LEVER TO PRESSURE ISRAEL."
(F) DAVAR WRITES: "THE US PRINCIPAL
OBJECTIVE AT THIS STAGE SEEMS TO BE TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS
WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES... WHEN ITS MAIN CARD IS THE
'TERRITORIES' HELD BY ISRAEL. ISRAEL CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT
BE INTERESTED IN THWARTING THE US EFFORTS... HOWWEVER, ISRAEL
MUST BE WARY OF THE US USE OF THE ISRAELI CARD WITHOUT
INCLUDING ISRAEL IN THE BARGAINING... BEFORE ISRAEL TRUSTS
EGYPTIAN.. AND US GUARANTEES, IT SHOULD NOT GIVE UP
EFFECTIVE BARGAINING CARDS (ON THE CANAL) WITHOUT SECURING
FREE ISRAELI NAVIGATION IN THE SUEZ CANAL, REMOVING
THE BAB EL MANDAB BLOCKADE.. (AND) TAKING STEPS AGAINST
ARAB OIL THREATS... BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE PEACE CONF."

3. PALESTINIANS: AL HAMISHMAR WRITES "KNOWLEDGEABLE
SOURCESIN HABLUS.. REPORT THE EX-MAYOR OF NABLUS (HAMDI
KNAAN) WENT TO BEIRUT ON NOV 18 TO MEET WITH TERRORIST
LEADERS WHO ARE FORMING A 'PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE'... IN
ANTICIPATION OF THE FORTHCOMING PEACE CONF... KNAAN
IS KNOWN TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OFN AN INDEPENEDNET
PALESTINIAN STATE ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA... ALTHOUGH HE HAD
MAINTAINED GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE JORDANIAN AUTHORITIES..
IT HAS ALSO BEEN LEARNED THAT RECENTLY KNAAN HAS BEEN TRAVEL-
LING TO ARAB COUNTRIES THROUGH CYPRUS AND NOT AMMAN."

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AL HAMISMHAR REMARKS:"... THE IMPRESSION IS GAINING
FORCE THAT ARAB FORCES HOSTILE TO JORDAN AND KING HUSSEIN,
AS WELL AS THE SOVIETS... WILL SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
SEPARATE DIASPORA GOVT (GOVERNMENT IN EXILE)..."

4. OIL CRISIS: HAARETZ COMMENTS:"... POST-
WAR (INTERNATIONAL) DEVELOPMENTS WILL CERTAINLY INCREASE THE
TENDENCY IN THE WEST TO ATTAIN ENERGY AUTARCHY NOTWITHSTANDING
ITS SOURCE. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THERE WILL BE A BLOC
AUTARCHY... OR WHETHER THE US, JAPAN AND EUROPEN WILL EACH DO
IT ON ITS OWN. THIS PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION
THAT WILL OCCUPY JAPAN AND NATO COUNTRIES... EVEN MORE
IMPORTANT THAN LIMITATION OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE.. OR
EVEN MONENTARY PROBLEMS... THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION
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WILL DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS SUBSTANCE IN THE TERM
'WEST' OR WHETHER THE WORD HAS BECOME EMPTY... SOMETHING
LEFT OVER FROM THE POST-WORLD WAR II ERA."
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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